

Message Text

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EXDIS-DOD HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E.O. 11652: GDS
AGS: PFOR
SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. EMERGENCY MEASURES A RESULT OF PARK'S FEARS

ACCORDING TO EMBASSY SEOUL, THE EMERGENCY MEASURES
INSTITUTED YESTERDAY BY SOUTH KOREA'S PRESIDENT PARK
INDICATE THAT PARK BELIEVES THERE IS NO WAY TO
MAINTAIN HIMSELF IN POWER AND CONTROL THE DOMESTIC
SITUATION EXCEPT BY RELYING ON THE EXPLICIT THREAT OF
ARBITRARY POLICE POWER. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT
SOME OF PARK'S CRITICS WILL RISK ARREST TO CONTINUE
THEIR CHALLENGE TO THE GOVERNMENT. (SECRET) SEOUL 128,
1/8.

2. PANAMA TALKS DEVELOPING MOMENTUM

AMBASSADOR BUNKER REPORTS THAT HIS TALKS WITH THE
PANAMANIAN ON JANUARY 6 AND 7 CONFIRMED THE EXISTENCE
OF A NEW NEGOTIATING MOMENTUM. THE MEETING RELIEVED
SECRET

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APPREHENSION THAT THESE NEGOTIATIONS ARE SLIPPING ON
THE SCALE OF US FOREIGN POLICY PRIORITIES, ACCENTED
THE NEW "FORTHCOMING" POSTURE TOWARD PANAMA, PERMITTED
PUTTING FINAL TOUCHES TO THE EIGHT "PRINCIPLES," AND

PROVIDED AGREEMENT ON A REASONABLE SCENARIO FOR FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS. AMBASSADOR BUNKER ALSO BELIEVES THE MEETING PROVIDES EVIDENCE THAT THE "NEW DIALOGUE" WITH LATIN AMERICA HAS BEEN PROMPTLY INITIATED AND PROMPTLY PRODUCTIVE. (SECRET) PANAMA 112, 1/8 (EXDIS).

3. CODEL JOHNSTON EXPLORES ALGERIAN LNG POLICY

SENATOR JOHNSTON (D-LA*) STOPPED BRIEFLY IN ALGIERS ON JANUARY 7 AND 8 AND MET WITH ALGERIAN OFFICIALS PRIMARILY TO ASCERTAIN ALGERIA'S RELIABILITY AS A SUPPLIER OF LIQUIFIED NATURAL GAS (LNG). THE ALGERIANS EMPHASIZED THE IMPORTANCE OF THE SALE OF LNG IN EXCHANGE FOR US TECHNOLOGY AND EQUIPMENT BUT WOULD NOT GUARANTEE THAT THE SUPPLY WOULD CONTINUE UNINTERRUPTED IN TIMES OF CRISIS. USINT ALGIERS COMMENTS THAT PRESIDENT BOUMEDIENE HAS NOT SET CLEAR GUIDELINES ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE FUTURE SUPPLY OF LNG AND US POLICY IN THE MIDDLE EAST. (CONFIDENTIAL) ALGIERS 42, 1/8.

4. POSSIBILITY FOR A QUICK OFFSET AGREEMENT?

AMBASSADOR HILLENBRAND BELIEVES THAT THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY (FRG) MIGHT BE RECEPTIVE TO A US OFFER TO COMPLETE OFFSET NEGOTIATIONS QUICKLY PROVIDED THE FRG WOULD ASSUME AN ADDITIONAL \$75 MILLION PER YEAR IN LOCAL SERVICING COSTS. THE AMBASSADOR NOTES THAT THE OIL SITUATION WILL MAKE IT INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT BOTH ECONOMICALLY AND POLITICALLY FOR OUR ALLIES TO* UNILATERALLY TRANSFER FUNDS TO THE US UNDER BURDEN-SHARING ARRANGEMENTS. (CONFIDENTIAL) BONN 352, 1/8.

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